

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8667

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4246

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA REPORTS MBFR PLENARY

1. PRAVDA ON MARCH 26 PUBLISHED A SHORT TASS REPORT NOTING THAT A REGULAR PLENARY SESSION OF MBFR WAS HELD MARCH 25 IN VIENNA.

2. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT PRAVDA HAS TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO REORT, WITHOUT AMPLICICATION, THAT A REGULAR PLENARY HAS BEEN HELD. OTHER MENTIONS OF REGULAR PLENARIES HAVE OCCURRED ONLY WHEN IT HAS HAD SOMETHING ELSE TO REPORT--THE FREEZE PROPOSAL FROM THE FEBRUARY 13 PLENARY, FOR EXAMPLE, OR THE WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL IN THE MARCH 6 PLENARY.

3. PLENARY SESSIONS IN SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS ARE REPORTED
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REGULARLY BY PRAVDA. THE FACT THAT THE SAME TREATMENT IS

APPARENTLY NOW BEING ACCORDED TO MBFR MAY CONCEIVABLY INDICATE AN
UPGRADE IN SOVIET INTEREST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH WE
WOULD NOT PUT TOO MUCH STOCK IN THIS BY ITSELF UNLESS CONFIRMED
BY OTHER INDICATORS.
STOESSEL

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